



DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

**Highway 154 Safety Committee
Town Hall Meeting
Solvang Veterans Memorial Building
1745 Mission Drive
Solvang, CA**

**Monday, December 16, 2019
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

The Highway 154 Safety Committee is a Board subcommittee of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments.

Persons may address the Highway 154 Safety on any matter listed on the agenda by completing and delivering to the Clerk a speaker slip before the item is considered. Matters not listed on the agenda may be addressed during the public comment item on the agenda. Each person may address the Committee for up to three minutes at the discretion of the Chair. Further information on agenda items can be obtained in the SBCAG Office, 260 North San Antonio Rd., Suite B, Santa Barbara. The Highway 154 Safety Committee may consider items out of sequence at the discretion of the Chair. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the Board Clerk to all or a majority of the members of the Highway 154 Safety Committee less than 72 hours prior to that meeting are available for inspection in the SBCAG office and on the Internet at: <http://www.sbcaq.org/meetings.html>

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations to participate in the meeting should contact SBCAG at least three working days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Members Present:

PRESENT	MEMBER	TITLE
x	Joan Hartmann	Supervisor, County of Santa Barbara
x	Gregg Hart	Supervisor, County of Santa Barbara
x	Paula Perotte	Mayor, City of Goleta
x	Holly Sierra	Mayor, City of Buellton

X	Ryan Toussaint	Mayor, City of Solvang
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Ex-Officio Members Present:

PRESENT	MEMBER	TITLE
X	Hannah-Beth Jackson	19th Senate District
X	Monique Limón	37th Assembly District
X	James Frost	California Highway Patrol
X	Roger D. Barnes	Caltrans, District 5

SBCAG Staff Members Present:

PRESENT	MEMBER	TITLE
X	Marjie Kirn	Executive Director
X	Mike Becker	Director of Planning
X	Lauren Bianchi Klemann	Government Affairs Manager/Public Information Manager
X	Jared Carvalho	Transportation Planner
X	Whitney Rush	Program Coordinator

AGENDA		
Item	Action	Person Responsible
1) Call to order and Introductions (5 minutes)	-	Marjie Kirn , Executive Director, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
Marjie Kirn called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.		
2) Pledge of Allegiance	-	Marjie Kirn , Executive Director, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
3) Election of Officers (5 minutes)	Appoint	Marjie Kirn , Executive Director, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
NOTES:		
Motion made to appoint Joan Hartmann as chair of the committee and Holly Sierra as vice chair		

Motion: Hart
 Second: Perotte
 Motion carried: 4-0

Yes: Hartmann, Hart, Perotte, Sierra

No: None

Abstention: None

Absent: Toussaint

4) Purpose of Town Hall and Committee Meeting
(15 minutes)

Informational

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th
Senate District

Assemblymember Monique Limón, 37th
Assembly District Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Gregg Hart, Second District

Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Third District

NOTES:

Presentation made, no action was taken.

Introductions highlighted the goal of the town hall was to discuss public safety on Highway 154, hear from the community and Caltrans, CHP and other transportation agencies. Focus on efforts on engineering, enforcement, education. Discussed the Highway 154 FAQ document as a working document to highlight the 101, 154, and 246 triangle of concern and coordinated public safety efforts.

5) Highway 154 Safety Panel Presentation and Question and Answer with State/local agencies
(40 minutes)

Informational

James Frost, Commander, California Highway Patrol – Buellton

Roger D. Barnes, R.C.E., T.E.,
*Senior Transportation Engineer
 Traffic Operations Branch Chief
 Caltrans, District 5 – San Luis Obispo*

Michael Becker, Director of Planning,
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

Panel Facilitator:
Marjie Kirn, Executive Director, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

NOTES:

Presentations made, no action was taken.

James Frost, Commander, California Highway Patrol – Buellton

- Presentation on CHP public education campaigns through grant programs (**radio shows**, StartSmart program, distracted driver programs)
- 2018 collisions, 52% resident of SB County at fault drivers, total arrests over 60% also residents of Santa Barbara County. Targeted enforcement planned for 154, study when and deploy resources.
- In 2020 use forums, town halls and social media to seek where the public would like to see CHP patrol and within 24 hours, officers went to those places. CHP logs all traffic complaints and encouraged the public to make submissions.

Roger D. Barnes, R.C.E., T.E., Senior Transportation Engineer Traffic Operations Branch Chief Caltrans, District 5 – San Luis Obispo

- Presentation highlighted Caltrans, District 5's engineering projects, including: completed rumble strip project, analysis of advance warning signs in Roblar area and curves as well as highway truck signs to take Highway 101.

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Michael Becker, Director of Planning, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

- Presentation highlighted the traffic circulation and safety study of the Valley. Partnership with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. The study is expected to be completed in June 2020 and encouraged public participation in upcoming workshop. Study focuses on two areas along Highway 154, intersection with Roblar as well as Los Olivos.

Marjie Kirn, Executive Director, Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

Kirn facilitated/moderated public comments and questions, public comment both verbal and on cards included:

- Look at other models, like New Zealand mountain roads and signage, scary parts highlighted with signs.
- Need for education regarding roundabouts, it's not more lanes/signs, it's education. Tourists unaware of where to stop and how to do it safely, appropriate signage necessary. Speed adjustments will not serve much.
- See an increase in truck traffic on 154, to Caltrans, is there something we can do to restrict trucks? Advisory current exists, it would have to be done legislatively.
- Comment made on \$30 million worth of capital improvements on 154 and 246, taxpayers foot the bill, little effort from state/gaming operation. How to encourage Tribe to pay for improvements? Hartmann responded that the Tribe is involved in separate contracts and highlighted it is locals that are involved in most accidents and Tribe's contribution to triangle study.
- Frustration expressed in being stuck behind trucks going 35 mph, comment on legislation needed.
- Truck problem been echoed since 2010. Road surface has improved. October incident, casino attracts gambler addicts and corporate marijuana, appreciate CHPs efforts, make 154 a toll road.
- Comment made about 450 accidents on 154, 10 deaths in 3 years, asked for evidence of another 35 miles stretch of road with 450 accidents, requested accident facts. Question to Caltrans, cone median dividers, flexible, can those be put in? Caltrans expressed it will follow up on facts and doing research into flexible dividers.
- Request for origin destination studies - Caltrans says SBCAG could coordinate additional studies.
- Question was asked if CHP confirms where last consumption of alcohol was? CHP responded that they did not pull stats on that.
- Request made to focus on casino.
- Question was asked about sustainable funding for CHP? Can Caltrans add shoulders at key

- areas? SB1 \$2 billion, highway safety component, use to fund.
- Look at Hwy 17 in Santa Cruz/Santa Clara county. Divider made it safer. Suggest widening 154 and flexible barrier, deter passing, Encourage resources put towards.
- Specific to Roblar intersection, why \$ towards Baseline before Roblar? Caltrans spoke to the fact that the Baseline project started years ago, Roblar process now starting.
- Comment made about encouraging roundabouts, the road is not dangerous, people not using turnouts and upsets others on road, drivers speed up on straightaways.
- Comment made on best improvement is stop sign at Edison and Baseline and requested to put in another stop sign at Roblar, put stop sign in then study it.
- Comment made to increase education – need Public Service Announcements, put out some commercials, put back in passing lanes, rumble strips prevent people from pulling over to allow passing, work on education.
- Teacher at Dunn, takes middle schooler across 154, asked for more multimodal options - wildlife and children need safe crossings.
- Request to CHP, comment made that they make calls numerous times with DUI sightings, never seen CHP respond. Commander Frost reiterates that the CHP takes calls seriously and answers all of them.
- Comment made commending Caltrans for trying, expressed that Baseline/Edison not working.

<p>6) Public Comment (15 minutes)</p> <p><i>The public may address the Highway 154 Committee on any subject within the jurisdiction of the committee that is not included as part of this agenda. Comments shall be limited to fifteen minutes, divided among those desiring to speak, but no person shall speak longer than three minutes.</i></p>	-	
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NOTES:

Public comment, no action was taken.

Public comment made about roundabouts in Sedona, and how they don't solve everything, references SBCAG Traffic and Safety Circulation Study meeting at Hotel Corque with the Tribe, expressed that you can buy service from cell phones and know exact traffic speeds/patterns. Requested to make 246 four lanes out of Buellton to Lompoc. No one wants Hwy 1 out of Lompoc.

<p>7) Committee Comments (10 minutes)</p>	-	
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NOTES:

Committee comments made, no action was taken.

- Hartmann: heard the public's feedback on signs, flexible dividers, where last drink was on DUIs – and requested FAQs be updated and for the safety committee to continue to meet. Expressed appreciation for the information on what has been accomplished asked about how to get money quickly to enforcement? Intrigued by crowdsourced ideas.

- Jackson: commented on trucks, wayfinding, 246 four lane suggestions, look at a community questionnaire, appreciated the bicycling comment – schools and kids, consider biking and safety
- Limón: commented on the balance between traditional and community needs, Roblar and Grant intersections noted, human and physical resources needed.
- Hart: commented on the “3 Es,” Caltrans stop signs at Roblar and Grand, widening shoulders where possible, widening 246 – phase 2 of passing lane project from measure A funds, need additional CHP funding, public education on safe driving, origin/destination study,
- Perotte: commented on Goleta workforce traveling over the 154 and expressed appreciation for public participation.
- Sierra: liked the Public Service Announcement idea, commented on the need for more visibility especially in area with no turn outs coming south to Santa Barbara, need more CHP presence.

Hartmann expressed appreciation to all staff, will report back with update to FAQs.

8) Adjourn

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NOTES (document adjourn time):

Hartmann adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.